

01/10/97 1:29 AM

Dear Paul,

Thanks for coming out tonight. I really appreciated it. Your being there that first set made it so much easier for me, you know how it is. Despite the usual non-audience the gig ended up being all right and the manager really dug it and wants me back. If I could just get a few \$50 gigs a week, I'll be all right.

But that's not why I'm writing this. I'm happy and very sad that you're leaving. Happy that you finally made a decision that I know you've been agonizing over making and very sad because I truly value you as a friend and want you to know that you are and have been since we really got to know each other very important to me as a friend, so I'm sad that you're not going to be close by any more. Don't worry about how you told me--it was obvious to me that in your mind you thought you'd told me already. I was referring to that terrible Fumblers rehearsal when you and Danny kept me and Turk waiting for hours and then Danny says he's leaving. It wasn't about you. But all that's in the past.

Anyway, I think you should tell Danny as soon as possible. Just take him and get a drink or something and tell him. Tell him now, so that if he decides to keep the band going, he can get somebody else ready by the time you split. I really don't think you have to worry about getting a "Joe" reaction. While I of course have stayed out of that whole thing, Joe was just completely insensitive in the way he handled it and I can understand and don't blame Danny for being pissed. And don't get me wrong, I dig Ankenbrand and know that he's a good guy. And you meaning YOU can't worry about Danny either. It's time you took care of yourself and put yourself first--and I join Mike (Vogelmann) in supporting you. I know you've been very unhappy with your job, your relationship with Marsha, and (I guess) life in general for way too long. And I also know how hard it is for you to make decisions and take action--and part of that is because you do care so much about other people and do your best not to hurt them, and don't want to hurt them. But, there comes a time when you have to take care of yourself, and put yourself first. So to me in regards to the move you're about to make: IT'S ABOUT TIME!!!!

But I'm sad 'cause when you told me, I realized how much I love you and how much I'll miss you. You're easily one of the best people *that I've ever known* on every level. I'll always appreciate the support you've given me on all levels and on all matters.

It's weird because in recent weeks, I started thinking about how much I dug playing with you and realized that I've really missed it, and had thought about calling you to do some gigs if they ever (fucking) appear. Because you *knew* and wanted to have fun and were willing to try just about anything--and except for those last few months of the Fumblers (when [I guess] you were again hampered by indecision)--had boundless enthusiasm which just thrilled me.

I loved the Fumblers and was sorry to see it go, but it had run its course and was out of steam. I know Turk says stupid things that really do upset me and piss me off and I know they pissed you off too and I also know that some of

that was for me, but deep down Turk has a heart of gold. He's just blind and really stupid in some areas. He should know better but he doesn't, and part of that comes from the environment in which he was raised. Some people are able to overcome it and some aren't. He just doesn't stop and *think* and connect the dots and put two and two together.

And just in case you didn't realize, I also want you to know now and forever that I did know just how far you had to drive every time we rehearsed and gigged, and how much you put into it whether lugging tape recorders or bass cabinets. If you ever thought I didn't appreciate it or took it for granted, I didn't. I may not have been able to show it, but I *knew* what you were doing and I want to make sure you know it now. It made me nuts that we never got the appreciation we deserved and that the musicians playing with me just didn't seem to get noticed. It also makes me nuts that I couldn't then and still can't pay people who work with me what I want to pay them (and myself as well). It just sucks. However, as you are well aware, I found out for sure this week the standing I have among some people in this community. But as someone I also love and care about deeply once wrote, "Fuck those people!"

But again, I think you're making the right decision for you. I also know that you're concerned about your parents (hey none of us is getting any younger, I mean I'm well on the way now to 50) and want to spend time with them while you can.

But while, I'm sad, I can take comfort in knowing that wherever you are, we'll always be friends and that I'll be able to count on you--and want you to know the same. And hey, if I ever play Grand Rapids, I'll have a place to stay. :-)
(That's the internet symbol for smile.) And don't be too surprised if sometime, if Gary manages to get more radio stations to play this, or keep the one's that are playing it playing it, if you get when you least expect it a phone call that says: "Hey, like I really need a bass player that I like to go on the road and have some fun and adventure."

You're an important person to me Paul and have been for the past six-and-a-half years.

It seemed like now was the time to let you know.